

Grace United Church of Christ
Annual Report for 2013

grace
WE'RE AMAZING

Grace United Church of Christ
1185 Pleasantville Road
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we look back at 2013 for Grace Church, we are asked if it was a successful year at Grace. Council established two major goals for the 2013 calendar year. We wanted to review and clarify the duties of each board. Thanks to Mark Brown and the hard work of each board, we have met that goal. In the absence of a settled pastor, each board was asked to work harder and smarter than ever, and everyone stepped up to meet the challenge. Our second goal was to hire a new pastor. We have not reached that goal. It is a process. Special thanks to Pastor Dennis for his leadership in walking our selection committee through the preliminary stages and preparing us to follow God's calling as we seek a new pastor. It is indeed a slower process than many had hoped for, but I think we now have a better chance of finding the person God is calling to join us at Grace. At the time that I am writing this, the church profile is in final draft and should be ready for publication on February 1, 2014. This is a major step forward as we now proceed to the selection phase of the call process.

So the question remains, was this a successful year for Grace Church? Financially, we remain strong. Thanks to the generous giving of the congregation, especially during the Christmas season, we again have posted a budget surplus. Careful budget development, frugal spending and God's blessings always place us on solid ground.

The traditions of Grace remain strong. As we approached many of our time honored activities this year, there was fear that smaller and shall we say "more experienced" membership might make it impossible to succeed. We learned differently. Our Chicken Noodle this year went off without a hitch. People stepped up and made everything work. Vacation Bible school and our regular Sunday school programs were well attended and positively received. Lenten and Advent programming were very successful. This Christmas season, our Cookie Walk, the Pageant and the Birthday Party for Jesus all demonstrated our strength as we work together. The Christmas Miracle of all those wonderful children showing up to participate in the Christmas Pageant was especially gratifying for me. And finally, the number of people who attended our Christmas Eve Service was a great sign of our strength. A special joy was talking to the family who had never been to Grace before. They saw our Christmas Eve Service sign out front, and thought it would a joy to join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus at our candlelight service.

And this year also brought new things. Thanks to Jim Clausing for our ever expanding use of technology. Thanks to Tammy Townsend for organizing our community

festival. Thanks to all the youth and parents for helping us try to restart our youth fellowship.

Thanks to Tammy and to Brian Foster for stepping forward to share special messages (even I got to do one Sunday, and it was a joy for me!) And thanks to Pastor Dennis for bringing his touches to the service and his gifts to Grace church. The community wide Neighboring program connected us with our neighbors as individuals and as a church and helped us think about the gifts we receive from and can offer to our neighbors.

Grace...We Are Amazing! This year has given special meaning to the words we have chosen to represent us. Now, we look to the future. One of the activities we worked through as part of the pastor selection process was our "Wagon Train West." As we left our homes, we packed all of our favorite beliefs and values in our wagons, but as we faced increasing difficulty, we were forced to hang on to our most cherished. It was an interesting activity, and I thank all of you who attended the potluck and participated so actively. It was particularly interesting to see that there was strong agreement on what our most cherished values are. These words came forward the most often... love, faith and spirituality, joy and fun, community and family, friendship and welcoming, and leadership. These are the things we value most. These are the components of our most cherished beliefs. These are the beliefs and values that make us strong. These are the beliefs and values that will call a new pastor to Grace Church. In everything we do in 2014, I hope we will incorporate these core values.

On a personal note, I do believe it was a successful year for Grace Church. I tried to be involved in as much as possible during my year as President of Council. For me, this year was filled with Joy. The hard work and teamwork combined with the smiles and laughter to make every activity a success. Grace...You Are Amazing! Thanks for a great year.

Jack Patterson, Council President

2013 Grace UCC Treasurer's Annual Report

2013 held many financial challenges for our church. Due to declining revenues, we headed into the year with a projected deficit in our General Fund of nearly \$15,000. Good stewardship of our resources kept expenditures under budget by about \$17,500, and the support of our faithful and generous pledgers, who gave \$10,000+ beyond what was originally anticipated, resulted in a surplus of around \$11,600 to end the year. What a blessing! This surplus will be carried forward in our general fund account to be used as needed to sustain our budget in future periods.

The preparation of the 2014 operating budget was also difficult, and I again project a possible deficit of around \$24,000. It is difficult to contain our costs amid rising insurance and energy rates, and our aging building and parsonage continue to need repairs and updates, especially as we seek to attract potential pastor candidates this year. While pledged income remains strong, non-pledged and loose offerings are down due to declining church attendance. Weight Watchers has also reduced its two weekly meeting nights to just Mondays, lowering our anticipated rent by about \$2,500 annually. And with interest rates remaining low, our investment income has been minimal.

As of December 31, 2013, our General Fund passbook account balance was \$86,047. Other accounts and their year-end balances include the following:

Organ Fund	\$3,724
Pearce Fund CD	\$94,185
Pearce Bequest Fund	\$3,763
Capital Fund	\$44,017

One of the accomplishments of this office in 2013 was the preparation of an initial draft of the *Grace UCC Financial Policies and Procedures* manual to use in managing and reviewing our church finances. Committee members Terri Wise, Mark Brown, and our secretary, Sandy Brown, assisted me in preparing this document, which also includes recommendations from the 2012 financial review completed by Jones, Cochenour, & Co. This manual contains specific procedures for an internal review committee to use on a quarterly basis as it oversees the financial practices and transactions of our church finances. It is my hope that the final draft will be ready and officially approved by Council in early 2014.

As I look toward 2014, my goals as your treasurer for the coming year are to:

- finalize and put into place the plans outlined in the *Grace UCC Financial Policies and Procedures* manual
- assist the financial review committee that is appointed by Council
- continue to explore options for investment of the Pearce Memorial Fund to achieve higher yields
- work with the Business Affairs Board and Council to determine if and when a Capital Fund Drive may be needed to address repairs such as a new roof and parking lot paving
- work with the Pastor Search Committee and Church Council to develop a salary package for the new pastor.

Over the years, the generosity and loyalty of our members and friends has enabled Grace Church to establish a solid financial base, with "rainy day" funds set aside for our future needs. To continue this financial solvency, we must continue to use our resources wisely, and as we seek to define our church's

ministry within our community, we must attract new friends and members to participate and contribute to our church's developing missions and programming. Despite the challenges that we face, I believe that by the grace of God, Grace UCC will continue to survive—and thrive—in the years ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Sherry Jones
Grace UCC Treasurer

2013 Annual Report
Business Affairs Board

Members of 2013 were Ron Harvey, Chairperson, Howard Blaisdell, Secretary, Terri Wise, Council Representative, Joyce Landis, Jerry Marvin, and Thom Pearce. As you will see from the list of accomplished projects, these board members need to be thanked for their diligence taking care of the church and parsonage properties, grounds, and finances. Additional thanks are due the following for their assistance with the BAB in some way, as are others we are unaware of or who have continued to take care of specific tasks for perhaps a long period of time: Sandy Brown, Chris Claypool, Mark Brown, Sherry Jones, Bill Hochradel, Jim Nigh, Bob Kishler, Robin Reed, Jack Patterson, Steve McCandlish, Doug Moos, Larry Mason, Carol King, Sherry Clausing, and members of the youth group. A special sincere thanks to the Endowment Board who funded three major requests from the BAB this year. Special thanks also to outgoing member Terri Wise for her four years of service on the BAB.

Non-maintenance tasks this year included the development of updated policies and procedures as a result of the 2012 external financial review, staff evaluations, and a budget of \$161,637.75 (2.1% increase) for 2014.

Church Projects Completed:

- Electric provider change to First Energy for projected cost savings
- Sign lighting improvements and spotlights
- Grace UCC banners at parking lot entrance on Wheeling Road
- New computer/monitor/printer/software for church office (Endowment funded)
- New supplementary water heater needed for chicken noodle supper (Endowment funded)
- Electrical upgrades: additional outlets in choir loft and office, repair of altar lighting
- Installation of Knox box for fire department access to building in case of emergency
- Installation of wall cabinet for AED unit in the cloak closet
- Experimentation with additional glass coverings for eave lighting along sides of sanctuary

Grounds Projects Completed:

- Extensive tree pruning and removal due to storm damage and to accommodate lawn service
- Regular grounds clean-up of fallen limbs
- Pruning of shrubbery
- Sinkholes at parsonage filled

Parsonage Projects Completed:

- New washer and dryer (Endowment financed), new dishwasher, new dryer vent
- Major repair to address bathroom shower leak and lack of access to pipes, drain cleaning
- Repair and expansion of outside lighting
- Garage door maintenance and insulation
- Repair of sliding closet doors
- regular and emergency pest control

The work of the BAB is never done. Potential needs and discussion items known at this time include the deteriorating parking lot, repair to some of the A-frame supports, repair to the parsonage chimneys, and updates to the lighting systems in the church building. Help will be needed by many to prepare the parsonage for a new pastor. Six members of the BAB cannot do it all. Your assistance and expertise are and will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Ron Harvey, 2013 Chairperson, Business Affairs Board

Grace United Church of Christ

2013 Pastor's Report

A pleasurable year of joy is one way to describe my first full year as the interim pastor at Grace United Church of Christ. It has been a privilege to serve our God with the people of this church. I have so enjoyed serving this congregation that consists of so many caring people.

2013 was a year of progress. The Pastoral Search Committee stepped out to explore new ways to be a church of Jesus Christ in this world of contemporary change. The book, Moving Off the Map, provided challenging and innovative ideas and practical ways to be the church of the future. Additionally, the congregation created a chronological history of Grace Church for the past thirty years that reflected upon both the dividing difficulties as well as favorite memories of the past. The congregation also participated in the process of becoming "cowboys and westerners," led by the Search Committee, which began to identify the core values needed to be a congregation ready to be the church for Jesus in the future.

Many exciting activities occurred throughout the year. Some were traditional such as the Chicken Noodle Dinner and Cookie Walk. Others such as the Children's Fair were new. Vacation Bible School was a week that stood out as a significant time with children and families from both the congregation and the community at large. Additionally, we had changes during Sunday morning worship, such as slides, videos and music placed on the wall in front of the sanctuary. On Palm/Passion Sunday, we witnessed the rooster in church that crowed at the perfect moment to lift up the rooster crowing to remind Peter of his denial of Christ. At Pentecost the pastor dressed as a clown. The children's moment during worship on most Sundays has been a blessing. During the summer Pastor gave up his robe, clerical collar and even a tie as he led worship. I appreciate the church's openness to these explorations.

As interim pastor I have encouraged the church to make incremental changes. The congregation needs praised in responding well to these potential changes. Offering these experimental ways is a first step in moving toward transformational changes. Such changes need to come under the guidance of a new pastor or pastoral team. As Grace Church has a great history in mission outreach and support, often supported by the Endowment Fund, it needs to re-evaluate the use of the fund as it relates to the transformation of the congregation. The first step in this direction will be to evaluate pastoral leadership and/or the need for two ministerial staff to seriously move into a new life for Christ. The second step will be to explore new worship and music opportunities as well as new ways to reach out in Christian education. I look forward to continuing to be with Grace Church in the coming months. Thank you for your support of me not only as your interim pastor, but also in my

other mission and work for justice. I was thrilled to serve as the UCC Chaplain at the Chautauqua Institute in New York this past summer. My 60 days of work in West Virginia is a special opportunity with the legislature. As I have needed to move out of my home in Charleston, the church has been patient and supportive.

I continue to pray for Grace Church and the many individuals and families that have special needs during certain times of their life. I have been to the hospital on many occasions, visited our people in their homes and several nursing homes and have served as pastor in several funerals in 2013. These have been privileged moments in my life. They remind us why we need a congregational family united in Christ. That family needs to be open to welcoming all people to the church and to our time of worship and communion.

Thank You Grace United Church of Christ and May God Continue to Bless You.

2013 Christian Education Board Annual Report

The Christian Education Board has worked exceedingly hard this year to provide interesting and challenging opportunities for our members both young and young at heart.

We have worked to accomplish the following goals for this year:

- 1. Increase our commitment to the principles of "Sticky Faith" by recruiting and training church members to develop positive connections with our youth.**

The Christian Education Board has worked as a committee to include the youth in various projects of the congregation this year, and we also tried to recognize our youth for their accomplishments outside the church.

- 2. Increase sustainable participation in Youth Fellowship Activities via sought input from families and youth.**

The Christian Education Board held a meeting with parents and youth to ascertain activities of interest. Although there was only one planned activity, more activities are going to be held in the future.

A magazine for youth called Devo'Zine has been ordered for use with our teens as lessons and discussion starters.

In addition to working on these goals, the Christian Education Board members have continued to enhance and expand programs already in place, such as:

1. A "Souper Bowl" event where money and nonperishable goods were collected and donated to Community Action in January and February.
2. Youth Care packages were sent to our college students in February.
3. An Easter egg hunt was held on Easter Sunday in March.
4. Earth Day activities were held with Charlie Foster, who shared his knowledge of nature and forestry by teaching an Earth Day lesson in April.
5. In April, an organizational meeting was held with families to help determine activities for youth fellowship. Parents and youth met separately and then shared their discussions.

6. A Community Fun Fair was held in May to promote Bible School as well as outreach to the community.
7. A reception for our graduates was held in June.
8. Vacation Bible School was held in June with a Carnival theme.
9. In September, we held Rally Day activities and presentations.
10. A youth pizza party and game night was held in November.
11. Also in November, a family Advent wreath building activity was held.
12. In December, the youth participated in the Christmas pageant, which was called "Christ is Born." The Birthday Party for Jesus was held after the pageant.

The Christian Education Board is also trying to incorporate and use technology in its activities. We are trying to take advantage of the church's projector to announce activities and upcoming events as well as post pictures of said events. The use of social media (e.g. Facebook) is being explored as well.

Christian Service Board 2013 Annual Report

The Christian Service Board raised funds and coordinated projects in 2013 that would help our local community and our neighbors around the world. Projects in 2013 included the following:

- 1) Members of the CSB prepared and delivered meals for approximately 30-40 clients of the free By-the-Way Clinic held at Maywood Mission. Our meals were donated on the third Tuesday, during the months of March, June, September, and December.
- 2) Church members and friends donated canned and packaged food (and pet food) throughout the year. This was given to Maywood Mission's food pantry and Community Action.
- 3) Members of Grace volunteered to prepare one meal per month for the temporary residents in our local homeless shelter. This was donated on the fourth Saturday of each month.
- 4) Toiletries were collected and donated to the local homeless shelter and the Lighthouse, a domestic violence haven. A total of approximately 650 items were given on three separate occasions.
- 5) Pocket Change was collected on Sundays and given to the Zoughbi family and the Olivewood Project in Bethlehem. The amount collected totaled \$141.74.
- 6) SCRIP gift cards were sold at various times during the year, with the proceeds donated to Maywood Mission each month for a total of approximately \$1200.
- 7) The Mitten Tree was filled with over 150 items during Advent. These socks, scarves, mittens, hats, underwear, etc. were passed out at the Maywood Mission school and day care programs for needy children and their families. The remainder of the items were then given to the Maywood Mission store for resale.
- 8) The 18th Annual Cookie Walk was held on December 14. A total of \$836 was raised, despite the inclement weather, and donated to the Foundation Dinners.

The members of the Christian Service Board sincerely thank everyone for the generous support of our projects during 2013. Thank you for helping us help those in need!

Sincerely submitted by the Christian Service Board Members,

Cindy Kishler
Chris Claypool
Pam McCandlish

Peggy Selby
James Vaughan
Kathie Will

MEMBERSHIP ACTION BOARD 2013 REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Serving as Membership Action Board (MAB) members during 2013 were Johanna Pearce (chairperson), Carroll Daugherty, Barb Claypool and Grace Pang. The board operated with two vacancies and it was not unusual for only three members to be in attendance at monthly meetings. As a result, there were challenges for what is traditionally a very active board.

Despite these challenges, the following was accomplished during 2013:

- Prepared summary of operational duties and responsibilities at the request of Church Council 2nd Vice President, Mark Brown, for a special project.
- Organized Easter Breakfast with the assistance of other boards and the Executive Board
- Cohosted choir appreciation
- Completed membership roll review
- Completed nominating committee activities
- Participated in the Stewardship Committee
- Pew Welcome (hand sanitizer filling, pencil sharpening and Grace Welcome pamphlet)
- Special acknowledgements for Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrating all women and men who act as nurturers and caregivers
- Created time and talent table to be provided to appropriate boards for utilization during 2014
- Supported Christian Education during the Fun Fair event held in May
- Recruited Keely Pearce to do bulletin board creation in Narthex

MAB would like to express sincere appreciation to Grace Pang and Carroll Daugherty for their four years of service on the board. The board extends a hearty welcome to new members Terri Patterson, Brian Foster and Pam McCandlish for 2014! We still have a vacancy and welcome anyone interested in serving!

Goals for 2014 include the following:

- Quarterly, church wide, fellowship activity/event
 - Member/Friend Corner (newsletter and bulletin board in hallway by parlor beginning March 2014)
 - Exploration of Grace guest outreach
- . . . and much, much more!

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Pearce

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Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Pearce

Women's Guild 2013 Annual Report

The Women's Guild of Grace United Church of Christ met seven times in 2013 for a noon luncheon meeting. Donations to "Pete the Pig" for leprosy were collected at each meeting. Cards were sent to shut-ins. The "We Care" committee provided food for luncheons following funerals. Memorial gifts were given for deceased members. The Guild provides the quarterly devotionals "These Days" and appreciates the donations to cover the cost. The Guild continued to coordinate the Flag Project with the purchase of new Christian Flags. No Red Cross Blood Drives were held in 2013. A volunteer is needed to coordinate this project if there are to be future Blood Drives. The Guild provided volunteers to work in the church office during those times when Secretary Sandy Brown was away.

The Guild invited the men to join them for the February meeting with guest speakers Brian Foster and Gerry Lane of Bankers Life and Casualty Company giving a presentation on Medicare. The men were also invited to join the ladies at the April meeting held at Mediterranean on 33 with guest speaker Paul DeLong giving a program on "Lancaster: Past, Present and Future". The Guild took on the project of having the church carpeting cleaned.

The "Women in Worship" service and the Senior Citizens Luncheon were projects carried out by the Guild in May. June projects included the purchase and presentation of graduation gifts to five graduates and the preparation and serving of Jonathan Pang's Graduation Party in the fellowship hall. In August the Guild worked at Carnival Foods passing out food samples as a fundraising project.

The final project of the year was the annual Chicken Noodle Supper. The ladies spent much time making the noodles, cleaning the kitchen and fellowship hall and helping with the "Chicken Pickin". An "Opportunities for Grace" folder was passed around during the church services to encourage people to sign up for the various jobs that needed to be filled to make the supper a success. The congregation stepped up and the supper was very successful.

The Guild held their annual Christmas luncheon meeting at The Ville with the men being invited to attend. The ladies approved the annual donations to American Leprosy, Fairfield County Emergency Shelter, Maywood Mission Food Pantry, and the Community Action Food Pantry.

**Grace United Church of Christ
Women's Guild Financial Report for 2013**

Checking Account Balance as of 12-24-2012	\$ 3526.68
Income	<u>+3009.53</u>
	6536.21
Expenses	<u>- 2662.18</u>
Checking Account Balance as of 1-8-2014	\$ 3874.03

Income	
Covenants	\$ 1330.00
Pete the Pig/Leprosy	81.90
We Care Meals/Donations	270.00
Devotionals	51.75
Noodle Sales	96.00
Meals for WG	15.00
Memorial Gifts	300.00
Pang Graduation Party	500.00
Cookbooks	30.00
Misc.	334.88
GFS Rebate \$ 64.88	
Carnival Foods 250.00	
Donation 20.00	
Total	\$ 3009.53

Income	\$	3009.53
Expenses	-	<u>2662.18</u>
	\$	347.35

Expenses	
Decorations	\$ 50.00
Stamps/cards	87.73
Paper Products	-0-
Memorials	125.00
Flag Fund	70.65
Lunch for Seniors	255.57
We Care Food/Meals	323.44
Gifts/Cakes	165.45
Bldg. (Carpet Cleaning)	265.00
Pang Graduation Party	180.34
Noodle Cutters (2)	86.00
Charge for Checks	28.00
Donations to Organizations	1025.00
Maywood Mission \$325.00	
Emergency Shelter 300.00	
Am Leprosy 100.00	
Comm Action Food Pantry 300.00	
Total	\$ 2662.18

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Harvey, Treasurer

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT 2013

<u>Month</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total Weekly</u>	<u>Total Monthly</u>	<u>Total Yearly</u>
January	\$9,606.21	\$628.00	\$195.00	\$10,429.21	\$10,429.21	\$10,429.21
February	\$7,147.50	\$451.00	\$261.00	\$7,859.50	\$7,859.50	\$18,288.71
March	\$15,106.88	\$2,543.00	\$245.00	\$17,894.88	\$17,894.88	\$36,183.59
April	\$10,706.45	\$206.65	\$81.00	\$10,994.10	\$10,994.10	\$47,177.69
May	\$8,979.92	\$515.00	\$25.00	\$9,519.92	\$9,519.92	\$56,697.61
June	\$15,239.00	\$535.00	\$70.00	\$15,844.00	\$15,844.00	\$72,541.61
July	\$9,095.33	\$867.00	\$50.00	\$10,012.33	\$10,012.33	\$82,553.94
August	\$14,249.76	\$205.00	\$570.00	\$15,024.76	\$15,024.76	\$97,578.70
September	\$16,578.81	\$374.00	\$70.00	\$17,022.81	\$17,022.81	\$114,601.51
October	\$12,457.38	\$556.00	\$25.00	\$13,038.38	\$13,038.38	\$127,639.89
November	\$16,836.90	\$406.60	\$40.00	\$17,283.50	\$17,283.50	\$144,923.39
December	<u>\$50,337.97</u>	<u>\$479.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$50,856.97</u>	<u>\$50,856.97</u>	<u>\$195,780.36</u>
	\$186,342.11	\$7,766.25	\$1,672.00	\$195,780.36	\$195,780.36	\$195,780.36

Submitted by Financial Secretary Peggy Nigh

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT 2013

Memorials Received	13
Individuals Remembered	4
Beginning Balance in Memorial Fund	\$3,844.37
Memorial Fund Donations	<u>\$345.00</u>
Balance	\$4,189.37
Memorial Fund Expense in 2013	<u>\$856.32</u>
Memorial Fund Balance 12/31/2013	\$3,333.05
Money received for Memorial Walkway	\$100.00
Memorial Walkway Expense	\$50.00

Submitted by Memorial Secretary Kathy Conrad

*A Memorial gift was given to Women's Guild in the amount of \$300.00. The donation is not included in the Grace report as it was deposited in the Women's Guild account and will be included in their report.

Grace UCC Endowment Fund

Financial Report 2013 1/22/2014

Description Date Total

Fund Balance:

Bremen Bank \$ 8,592.61

UCF Fixed Income \$ 209,030.15

UCF Equity Fund \$ 98,846.80

UCF Moderate Balanced \$ 249,492.73

UCF Cash & Equivalent \$ 9,464.42

Beginning Balance as of 12/31/2012 \$ 575,426.71

Contributions:

Income: Market Value Interest &

Change Dividends

Bremen Bank \$ 8,000.00 \$ 6.29

UCF Fixed Income \$ (7,943.61) \$ 3,875.74

UCF Equity Fund \$ 21,187.24 \$ 1,134.74

UCF Moderate Balanced \$ 27,582.31 \$ 4,025.40

UCF Cash & Equivalent \$ (7,999.76) \$ 0.75

Total income through 12/31/2013 \$ 40,826.18 \$ 9,042.92 \$ 49,869.10

Disbursements:

El Salvador Trip (S. Clausing) 1/23/2013 \$ 2,000.00

Summer Camp 8/18/2013 \$ 747.00

Parsonage washer/dryer 8/18/2013 \$ 1,496.66

Gen. Synod (J. Clausing) 8/18/2013 \$ 700.00

Chautauqua (Rev. Sparks) 8/18/2013 \$ 400.00

GUCC Office Computer 8/18/2013 \$ 1,720.45

GUCC Hot Water Heater 12/27/2013 \$ 2,731.44

Pastor Search (books) 12/27/2013 \$ 48.90

College Scholarships 12/27/2013 \$ 2,500.00

UCF Investment Conf. (T. Pearce) 12/27/2013 \$ 850.00 \$ 6,130.34

Total disbursements through 12/31/2013 \$ 13,194.45

Fund Balance

Bremen bank \$ 3,404.45

UCF Fixed Income \$ 204,962.28

UCF Equity Fund \$ 121,168.78

UCF Moderate Balanced \$ 281,100.44

UCF Cash & Equivalent \$ 1,465.41

UCF Total \$ 608,696.91

Ending Balance as of 12/31/2013 \$ 612,101.36 \$ 612,101.36

Return of the period 8.15%

Prepared and Submitted by:

Thom Pearce, Treasurer

Webmaster/Sound guy - 2013 Annual Report

Facebook

Following on the progress we made last year, we've made a great deal of use of the Facebook page this year. This is turning out to be a very useful means of communicating with those who 'like' us, but we still aren't reaching all of the members and friends who are on Facebook. We are posting about 3-5 times a week. We urge every member or friend of the congregation who uses Facebook to like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchLancaster>.

Blog

We made more use of the blog (<http://graceucclancaster.blogspot.com>) this year than at any time since I originally launched it in 2007, posting 70 stories. While some of the material here is cross-linked to the Facebook page, this is a place where we can (and do) put longer posts. If you use an RSS reader consider subscribing to the blog feed. If you don't know what that is or how to do that, ask me, I'd be happy to show you how it works. Between them, the Facebook page and blog are our primary online ways of communicating with the members and friends (and potential new visitors) of Grace UCC online. We didn't coordinate with the boards to make use of these online resources this year as much as I had hoped, but that is one of the goals for the coming year.

Graceucclancaster.org

This past year has not shown as much work put into the website as into the other resources. 2013 has been the first full year of posting audio recordings of the sermons (and even a couple of videos) on the website (<http://www.graceucclancaster.com/sermons/>) and on iTunes (links are posted on the blog and Facebook when the latest sermon is posted on the website). We posted 48 sermons/services (the others were either special services or dates when we had technical difficulties. The mailing lists created for the boards/committees haven't been utilized as much as I had hoped with only the search committee making significant use, but they are there should the boards wish to use them. We are also using the website as a repository for some important documents such as final report from God's Dream Team. The search committee will also make use of this capability in the coming year.

Technology in worship

The big addition this year has been the use of OpenLP software in worship to project images, PowerPoint presentations, videos, scriptures and song lyrics. The software has capabilities that we aren't fully utilizing yet and I expect we'll explore that further in the coming year. I want to give a huge thank you to Jonah Pearce and Brian Foster for their assistance with the Sunday morning tech work.

---Jim Clausing